

# Bridges: A Journal of Student Research

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Issue 7

Article 7

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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor

*Bridges: A Student Research Journal* is the showcase for undergraduate student scholarship at Coastal Carolina University, and I am proud to bring you the second printed issue. At a time when a college education is often judged by its return on investment, *Bridges* offers a tremendous payoff for student authors in terms of personal growth, professional development, and scholarly contribution. The articles featured in Issue 7 (Spring 2013) represent students eagerly tackling complex research questions and creatively solving research problems under the tutelage of experienced and dedicated faculty researchers. The journal emblazons the growing trend towards undergraduate research and experiential learning in higher education. This learning-by-doing, which is made possible only via intense faculty-student collaboration, results in highly relevant original research and creative production.

I am very pleased to introduce Issue 7 of Spring 2013, which first appeared online at <http://www.coastal.edu/academics/bridges/>. In this issue, as in the previous three issues, CCU undergraduate students share new knowledge about the world. To these authors, we have emphasized not only the importance of research but also the *completion* of research. Our student authors engage in every step of the research cycle: writing, reviewing, revising, editing, and publishing, all while meeting firm deadlines and rigorous standards. They represent a wide range of fields across business, humanities, and science, and they were all committed to revising what had been honors theses and independent studies for publication in *Bridges*.

The articles featured in this issue include Jacob Beaver's "The Influence of Ubiquitin-related Modifier Protein URM1 on Prion Formation" discusses his work with prions, infectious proteins that are associated with such neurodegenerative diseases as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. His research suggests potential links between manipulating these prions to produce less stable versions that may then be cured.

Caitlin Carroll combines her passion for cheerleading with research on balance in "Assessment of Balance in Collegiate Cheerleaders: Is Implementing a Balance Training Program a Good Idea?" She seeks to analyze fall risk as it pertains to balance ability in the sport and concludes that balance training programs would be helpful.

Dominique de Wit's "UN-REDD and the Yasuní-ITT Initiative as Global Environmental Governance Mechanisms" provides an assessment of global environmental governance at work in the Ecuadorian Yasuní National Park in the Amazon. She contends with climate change and numerous local and global actors to tease out the strengths and weaknesses of two different initiatives.

Dylan Houston in "Investigating Volatility Trends of Silver through an Analysis of Stock Options Prices" examines the fluctuation in prices, or volatility, for silver electronically traded fund (ETF) options. His presented information is critical for individuals who participate in investment markets, especially at times when precious metals are safe bets for investors.

Mitchell Locklear's "Word, Spirit, and Power: Women and Prophetic Authority in the Early Church" focuses on female prophets in the second-century Christian Church. He argues that as such women gained authority in a popular movement in Asia Minor, Church leaders sought to undermine prophecy itself to erode their control. His article illuminates well this early struggle for power.

Hannah Widdifield innovates a scholarly critique that blends academic, cultural, and social analyses with personal testimonies in her article "Who's Allowed to Ride the Short Bus? Un-Defining Disability." She examines the field of disability studies, and both suggests and demonstrates a way for this field to move forward in a productive manner.

Issue 7 is first and foremost a testament to the work produced by the best students at Coastal Carolina University. It is also a team

effort, and I wish to express my deep appreciation for the many dedicated people who guided, produced, and vetted this issue. The managing editor, Keira Williams, was a bastion of energy and reason, and the associate editor, Lori Sircable, who, as a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Writing program housed in the Department of English, made copyediting magic.

—Amanda Brian, Editor (2012-)



## Acknowledgement of Faculty Advisers

We would like to acknowledge each of the faculty advisers who worked with the student authors on their articles both before they were submitted for publication in *Bridges* and during the publication process. These faculty advisers, whose photographs and biographies follow the articles, dedicated time and energy far above their regular teaching responsibilities to guide their mentees in original research and writing.

In many cases these articles were originally written as the student's honors thesis or senior project. Working with advisees on such endeavors is not required for professors. They do this work for select students whose work rises above the normal expectations for undergraduate work. They also model faculty-student collaboration for our learning community. Without the work of the faculty advisers who direct the student toward success, *Bridges* could not exist.

We want to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following advisers who worked on articles for Issue 7:

<b>Adviser and Department</b>	<b>Student Author and Title</b>
Aneilya Barnes, History	Mitchell Locklear, "Word, Spirit, and Power: Women and Prophetic Authority in the Early Church"
Gregory Martel, Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies	Caitlin Carroll, "Assessment of Balance in Collegiate Cheerleaders: Is Implementing a Balance Training Program a Good Idea?"
Pamela Martin, Politics and Geography	Dominique de Wit, "UN-REDD and the Yasuní-ITT Initiative as Global Environmental Governance Mechanisms"
Michael Pierce, Biology	Jacob Beaver, "The Influence of Ubiquitin-related Modifier Protein URM1 on Prion Formation"

Tripthi Pillai, English	Hannah Widdifield, “Who’s Allowed to Ride the Short Bus? Un-Defining Disability”
Kenneth Small, Accounting, Finance, and Economics	Dylan Houston, “Investigating Volatility Trends of Silver through an Analysis of Stock Options Prices”



## Other Acknowledgements

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who have supported *Bridges* and should be recognized for their ongoing efforts to foster student research at Coastal Carolina University. Without their continued commitment to this journal and their belief in the importance of promoting undergraduate research, producing *Bridges* each year would literally be impossible.

- David DeCenzo, President
- Robert Byington, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President
- Robert Sheehan, Former Provost and Senior Vice President
- Robert Young, Current Director of Undergraduate Research
- Charmaine Tomczyk, Former Director of Undergraduate Research
- Michael Ruse, Current Director of the Honors Program
- Phillip Whalen, Former Director of the Honors Program

The editors for Issue 7 included two important additions, who gave generously of their time and expertise. We commend them for their work.

- Keira Williams, Managing Editor, Lecturer in the Honors Program (2012-2013)
- Lori Sircable, Associate Editor, Graduate Student in the Master of Arts in Writing Program (2013)

We had wonderful website and administrative support as well, which is a testimony to the broader community support *Bridges* receives.

- Debbie Hamm, Program Assistant of the Honors Program
- Stephanie Freeman, Editorial Review Board Recording Secretary



In addition, we would also like to acknowledge the work of our faculty reviewers. These faculty members agreed to read and comment on articles that have been submitted for consideration. The faculty reviewers serve as subject matter experts who comment on the value of the articles and offer suggestions for improvement before the article is published. In order to be published, an article must first be nominated by a faculty adviser and then reviewed positively by the entire *Bridges* Editorial Review Board. At that point, the article is sent to a faculty reviewer. Only when an article has received a positive review from the objective outsider can it be slated for publication.

It is essential for *Bridges* to have this kind of outside review process because almost all scholarly work proceeds in this manner. Our student authors are experiencing this important process for the first time. Without the unpaid work of these readers, this outside review process could not take place. We wish to thank the following faculty members for serving as reviewers this year.

- Eleanor Finnegan, Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Wes Fondren, Communication, Languages, and Cultures
- Marvin Keene, Accounting, Finance, and Economics
- Fang Ju Lin, Biology
- G. William Lysterly, Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies
- Keaghan Turner, English
- Min Ye, Politics and Geography

The Editorial Review Board is composed of Coastal Carolina University faculty members who are dedicated to strengthening our broadly defined research community. Their guidance of *Bridges* is invaluable.

- Sarah Banks, Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies
- Jennifer Boyle, English
- Sara Brallier, Psychology and Sociology
- Brian Bunton, Chemistry and Physics
- Paul Clark, Marketing and Resort Tourism

- Steve Earnest, Theatre
- Monica Fine, Marketing and Resort Tourism
- Melanie James, Accounting, Finance, and Economics
- Linda Martin, English
- Paul Peterson, Politics and Geography
- Philip Whalen, History